APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2005

EO 12958
3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY • PRIORITY

Intelligence Information Cable

IN 67343

EXO | DDI | D/I&IC | D/IAS 2 | PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

SECRET

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

1104092 CITE

DIST: 10 MARCH 1968

41-359-3

COUNTRY: LAOS

DOI: 11 MARCH 1968

SUBJECT: ENEMY ATTACK ON PHOU PHA THI, SITE 85, DURING EARLY MORNING OF 11 MARCH AND ARRIVAL OF ENEMY TROOPS AT TACAN SITE

ACQ: LAOS, VIENTIANE (11 MARCH 1968) FIELD NO:

SOURCE:

1. BY 0735 HOURS ON 11 MARCH 1968 ENEMY SOLDIERS HAD REACHED THE TACAN SITE AT PHOU PHA THI (UH 6663), AND ABOUT 100 ENEMY SOLDIERS WITH TWO MACHINE GUNS WERE FIRING DOWN ON THE HELICOPTER PAD. THE DEFENDERS STILL CONTROLLED THE TRAIL SYSTEMS TO THE SUMMIT (UH 664615); IT APPEARS, THEREFORE, THAT THE ENEMY SOLDIERS SCALED THE SHEER ROCK CLIFFS ON THE NORTHWESTERN SIDE OF PHOU PHA THI. THE OUTPOSTS AROUND PHOU PHA THI WERE STIL

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

IN THE HANDS OF THE DEFENDERS. ONE HELICOPTER HAD SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED SOME SOLDIERS WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED AT THE 105MM HOWITZER POSITION AT UH 668603. THE PERSONNEL IN THE COMMAND BUNKER WERE OUT OF CONTACT WITH TACAN PERSONNEL.

2. AT 0355 HOURS ON 11 MARCH INCOMING ENEMY MORTARS WERE LANDING ON THE TOP OF PHOU PHA THI, AND SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS HITTING THE COMMAND BUNKER. THE DEFENDERS ON THE CREST OF THE MOUNTAIN TOTALLED 203 MEN. THE COMMAND BUNKER WAS OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE TACAN SITE, WHICH APPEARED TO BE BURNING.

3. AT 0440 HOURS ON 11 MARCH THE DEFENDERS WERE STILL BEING SUBJECTED TO HEAVY INCOMING FIRE AND THE SITUATION WAS SERIOUS. AT 0445 HOURS HEAVY MORTAR FIRE WAS COMING FROM THE SOUTH. SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS STILL HITTING THE VICINITY OF THE COMMAND BUNKER.

4. AT 0505 HOURS POST NUMBER ONE WAS RECEIVING HEAVY WEAPONS FIRE. INTERMITTENT HEAVY ROCKET FIRE WAS HITTING THE CREST OF PHOU PHA THI FROM THE SOUTH; THIS ROCKET FIRE WAS EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE. THE DEFENDERS WERE HOLDING, BUT THE COMMAND BUNKER WAS STILL OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE TACAN

~~SECRET~~

359

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

SITE.

5. AT 0545 HOURS THE INCOMING FIRE CEASED.

6. AT 0626 HOURS SMOKE WAS COMING FROM THE TACAN SITE. BY 0655 HOURS A PATROL SENT TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF TACAN PERSONNEL WAS ENGAGED IN A FIRE FIGHT NEAR THE TACAN SITE.

7. FIELD DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT PACAF ARPAC [redacted]

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~

ADVANCE COPIES TRANSMITTED TO: THE WHITE HOUSE, STATE, DIA, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, JCS, I.IC, NSA, OCI.

~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~